

Senate Bill X7-7 Agricultural Listening Sessions



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Purpose of the Listening Sessions

- Discuss agricultural provisions of SBX7-7
- Provide initial understanding by DWR staff
- Share potential approaches for implementation of SBX7-7
- Share info on Public Process
- Solicit input from public

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Today's Agenda

- Overview of SBx7-7 Requirements
- Presentation: Methods for quantifying the efficiency of agricultural water use
 - Public Input/Discussion
- Presentation: Regulations that provide options for agriculture water suppliers to comply with measurement requirements
 - Public Input/Discussion

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SBX7-7 Defines "Ag Water Supplier" as:

A water supplier, either publicly or privately owned, providing water to 10,000 or more irrigated acres, excluding recycled water. "Ag Water supplier" includes a supplier or contractor for water, regardless of basis of right, that distribute or sells water for ultimate resale to customers. (AG WS does not include the Department.)

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Ag Water Suppliers are Required to:

- Implement the following on or before July 31, 2012
 - Measure the volume of water delivered
 - Adopt a pricing structure
- Implement all cost-effective EWMPs

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Ag Water Suppliers are Required to:

- Prepare / adopt AWMPs on or before Dec 31, 2012
 - EWMPs implemented / planned
 - WUE improvements occurred / to occur
 - Document why EWMPs not implemented (*not cost-effective, technically infeasible*)
- Update AWMPs
 - on or before December 31, 2015
 - on or before December 31 every 5 years thereafter

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DWR'S Responsibilities

- Develop a methodology for quantification of agricultural water use efficiency (**Project A1**)
- Develop and adopt Regulation that provides a range of options for agricultural water measurement (**A2**)
- Update agricultural efficient water management practices (**A3**)
- Report to Legislature on Ag EWMPs and Ag Water Management Plans (**A4 + A5**)

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DWR'S Responsibilities

- Revise requirements for AWMPs/ Develop AWMP Guidebook (**A6**)
- Revise the eligibility for state water management grants and loans (**A7**)
- Develop a single Standardized Water Use Reporting Form (**B1**)
- Promote regional water resources management practices (**B2**)

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Questions?

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SBX7 Requires DWR:

To develop a methodology for quantification of agricultural water use efficiency (Project A1)

- Alternatives include, but not limited to, determination of efficiency levels based on crop type or irrigation system distribution uniformity
- Report to the Legislature on a proposed methodology and a plan for implementation by December 31, 2011
- Implementation plan shall include
 - estimated implementation costs
 - types of data needed to support the methodology

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Quantifying Ag WUE Discussion Paper 1:

DWR Staff's preliminary understanding:

- Methods will address different spatial scales
 - Potential scales could be:
 - On-farm
 - Agricultural water supplier
 - Region
- Data needs vary with each scale
- Data collection methods/responsibilities may vary with each scale

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Quantifying Ag WUE Discussion Paper 1:

- **Should the methodology account for?**
 - Spatial scale
 - Temporal scale
 - Irrigation systems
 - Irrigation water source

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Quantifying Ag WUE

Discussion Paper 1:

- **Data Needs**
 - What data should be collected?
 - Who should collect the data?
 - Data quality control

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Quantifying Ag WUE

Discussion Paper 1:

- Cost considerations
- Plan for implementation

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Quantifying Ag WUE

Discussion Paper 1:

Comments and Discussion

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SBX7-7 Requires DWR:

To develop and adopt regulation for agricultural water measurement (A2)

- Range of options ag water suppliers may use or implement
 - to measure volume with sufficient accuracy
 - to comply with Section 531.10

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SBX7-7 Requires

- Ag water suppliers to comply by July 2012
- DWR to complete this task by July 2011
- Initial regulation adoption deemed an emergency
- DWR to Report to Legislature

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Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

DWR Staff's preliminary understanding:

- Applies to retail and wholesale suppliers
- Measurement to occur at physical "hand off" of control of water between supplier's delivery system and customer's point of delivery
- Regulations will provide for range of options suppliers "may use or implement"
 - Interpretation: suppliers choose among options, but must follow regulation

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Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **AB 1404**
 - Aggregate farm-gate delivery
 - Best professional practices
"Practices attaining and maintaining accuracy of measurement and reporting devices and methods"
 - Locally cost-effective
 - 2,000 acres (or 2,000 af annually delivered) threshold
 - Reporting
- **SBX7-7**
 - Affected: more than 10,000 irrigated acres
 - Less than 25,000 acres only need to comply if funding is provided

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Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **Regulations to provide a range of options for measurement.**

Should options include:

- Specific hardware devices?
- Accuracy standards?
- Both?

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Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **Accuracy standards**
 - Uniform for all conditions?
 - Vary by delivery system
 - Pressurized systems/pipes
 - Open channel/gravity systems
 - Automated
 - Hand-operated

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Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **Accuracy of measurement established through:**
 - Manufacturer rating
 - Field testing, calibration, documentation, and reporting.
 - Frequency/How often
- **Should regulations address:**
 - Only measurement options?
 - Related issues
 - Data management
 - Quality control

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Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **What to measure?**
 - Water delivered to customers by an ag water supplier
 - Does not include groundwater pumped from private wells
 - Does not include irrigation return, except if collected by ag supplier and provided to other customers
- **Where to measure?**
 - At customer's turnout
 - At point of change in control

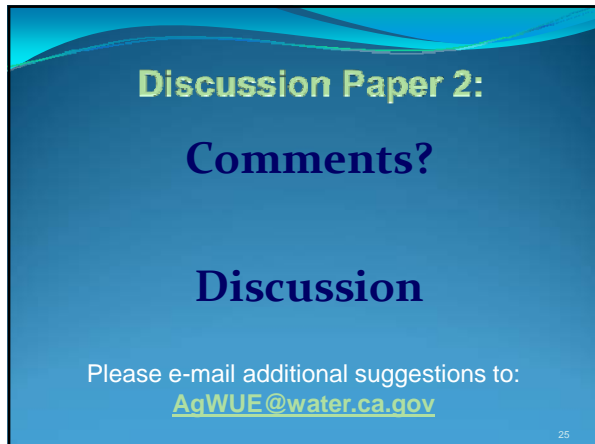
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Agricultural Water Measurement

Discussion Paper 2:

- **Other measurement information to consider**
 - USBR measurement guidelines
 - CALFED measurement report

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Discussion Paper 2:

Comments?

Discussion

Please e-mail additional suggestions to:
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